

N e x t G e n

Group 2

C o n t e n t s

Housing Typologies

Interior Climate

Neighbourhood Vibrancy

Housing typologies

Housing is an issue that isn't purely limited to size and space, but also the intimate culture of living. Within the Australian context housing is such a complex issue, in part, because of our vast cultural identities that lead us to live and to 'house' in different ways, and yet the majority of our housing is built as if we have a more singular cultural personality. Housing typologies have become reasonably narrow in Australia with 74.8% of the population living in independent dwellings, in-line with the colonial ideology of the 'Australian Dream'. However, new housing typologies and hybrids are emerging and offering new opportunities for how we want to live into the future.

Housing typologies basically consist of three main types, Separate, Semi-Detached and Attached. Separate housing naturally relates to individual dwellings that spare no structure and generally no spaces at all. Semi-Detached housing relates to dwellings that share some walls and perhaps some spaces but generally remain quite private. Attached Housing refers to apartments and flats that share structure almost completely as well as varying levels of common space.

As a country of immigrants our lifestyle has ultimately come from a collection of conditions, yet our housing typically has had a European influence. In the beginning of Australia's colonial settlement housing was generally of a small and extremely basic nature, consisting usually of independent shelters constructed in-situ with local timbers with often only one or two rooms for a family, single person or group of pioneers. Denser areas also had some rented communal housing in the form of housing rooms or boarding houses that consisted of one-room-style accommodation more like that of a hotel. Southern areas of Australia then began to develop brickworks and strong stonemasonry trades which more affluent settlers and officials began to use to construct their larger independent dwellings, often modelled off English homes. Corrugated iron roofing and weather-board cladding became the normal construction typology for the general population as their houses began to swell to accommodate more rooms and more comforts for individual family members. It was also quite common for families to live in the same building they traded from, be it a shop, workshop or otherwise. Through industrialisation urban areas began to see the use of masonry and spared party walls in the roll-out of European style row-houses for lower-class workers. The separate houses of the middle-class and upper-class, meanwhile, grew bigger and more ornate under the Arts and Crafts movement influence. In these times, while the average

house was still small by today's standards, families were often large. Family members shared bedrooms, and children generally only moved out of home for work or marriage, a vast change to the lifestyle of independence and privacy Australians cherish today. Elderly parents also moved in with their children for care and shared resources rather than living alone as widows as is common in Australia today.

Post-war Australia saw an explosion of social change which led to new and varied ways of living. Housing was in high demand, and yet there was low availability of materials and labour, so higher density housing options became more prevalent, with multistorey apartments and flat complexes becoming cost-effective options within cities. Cheap land, the "garden-city" mentality and the mass-need for new houses also led to the rise of mass-housing and



Above
Early settler's house.



Above
Early row house in North Melbourne.



Above
Original group of row houses in Ulster, UK.



Above
The 'McMansion'



Top Right
Aerial of the typical
Australian Suburb.



Bottom Right
Aurora, residential estate in
Melbourne.

¹ paraphrased from Drew, Phillips, (2010.01.29) 'The Changing Face of Housing', Australian Design Review

estate developments on city outskirts, a phenomena that has been popular ever since. Our case study area of Broadmeadows is a product of this post-war push, it was once a small rural village and military camp but in 1951 the Housing Commission developed a huge area of housing estate and the population went from 12,000 to 100,000 by 1970.

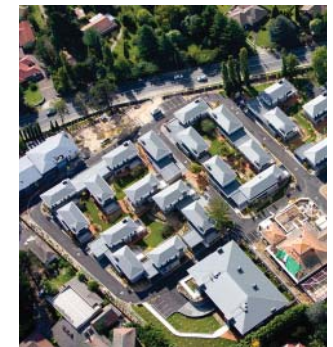
The trend of moving out for more space, privacy and buying a piece of the 'Australian Dream' has continued since the 50's, but with it houses have become much larger and house lots ever smaller into what is known as the 'McMansion'. It has only been in relevantly recent years, with the decline of nuclear families and the rise of singles and professional couples, that people have desired to live in closer, denser areas. In a bid to eliminate commuting and maximise amenities many of these people have given up separate dwellings in preference for medium to high density apartment towers. In between these phenomena also lays a series of dynamic housing options, group-housing, co-housing and varying levels of refitting of retail and semi-industrial spaces for residential accommodation.

Separate housing is still the major housing typology in Australia and Broadmeadows with 74.8% and 85% of the population living in this type of housing respectfully. New separate housing is something that is generally only happening in city outskirts or a very small percentage of more affluent inner-city areas where blocks of land may be divided or old housing stock demolished and replaced. Renovations and extensions to existing separate dwellings are, however, common throughout cities. Separate housing is the typical mode of living for families, allowing ideally for a bedroom for each person and a safe, contained playing area for children. There has however been a rise in individual widowers, childless couples and other singles living in separate homes by themselves and having a number of spare rooms. This is an Australia-wide phenomenon, not just limited to separate housing with 42.8% of Australians living with two or more excess bedrooms. The average house size in Australia is also the largest in the world with 215 square metres. The separate house is being portrayed more and more as the suburban evil with McMansions, Project homes, Kit-homes and Luxury homes alike being pitted against sustainability and liveability. More sustainability-conscious housing estate developments have been proposed, like that of Aurora in Melbourne, but the sector is still largely dominated by less sustainably focused developers. Some commentators even argue that the separate house, particularly on a housing estate, is actually an isolating, inhumane way to live, where people are starved of opportunity, amenity and social cohesion¹.

Semi-detached housing is generally more popular in denser inner-city areas where people are more prepared to 'compromise' on space and privacy for affordability. In areas where land costs are higher they are profitable development option and older separate dwellings are option demolished and replaced with this type of housing. In general semi-detached buildings have been seen as the cheaper, down-grade to living in a separate dwelling, now it is becoming seen as an attractive in-between state, a positive compromise between a house and flat. However, only 9.2% of Australia's population is described as living in semi-detached accommodation, in Broadmeadows it is even less, with only 5%. Semi-detached dwellings are reasonably scarce in outer suburbs, but new projects like Heritage Park, although intended for retirees, in rural Bowral begin to break the typical idea of a suburban housing development. The development mediates between the Australian culture of backyard and outdoor space and the communal-living culture of Scandinavia, taking cues from projects such as Koglerne co-housing, by including common garden spaces between the staggered two-storey units. The design also promotes community inaction and passive surveillance, often missing in estates of separate dwellings. Also on the agenda at Bowral was affordability, with a budget of \$2000 a square metre.

High-rise apartments, flats and other types of attached dwellings are the typical typology of very dense inner urban areas. In the Australian context large High-rise developments have only been allowed in city centres where they amongst the company of office towers, however in a bid to add density to the greater urban area they have been allowed to slowly populate further out, although under tight height restrictions. Apartment developments are attractive to people because of their amenities, access to infrastructure, affordability and often their 'newness'. In Australia 14.2% of people now live in flats or apartments, but in Broadmeadows only 9% live the same way. Apartments are generally preferred by professionals and young people with their low maintenance and security, with families still tending to prefer more private dwellings with outdoor space.

New typologies that blur and stretch these three main categories are also starting to gain more popularity. Typologies that allow for mixed uses, combine residential with other industries, allow for user modification and even create their own cities within.



Above Top

Heritage Park, Bowral, NSW,
Alex Popov.

Top Right

Heritage Park, Aerial view,
Bowral, NSW, *Alex Popov.*

Bottom Right

Koglerne co-housing,
Dwelling outlook, Skovbrynet,
Denmark, *Vandkunsten.*

Above Bottom

Typical innercity apartment
living.



Above Top
No-Stop-City, interior possibilities, *Archizoom*.

Above Bottom
Harbour town, exterior, Melbourne.



Above Top
Coutras House, interior, *Lacaton & Vassal*.



Above Bottom
Sky City 1000, comparison to effiel tower, *Takenaka Corporation*.



Above Top
Palais de Tokyo, interior, *Lacaton & Vassal*.



Above Bottom
Mega Energy Archipelago, exterior, Carribean Sea, *Nicole Carter*.

Half-build housing is not an entirely new phenomenon; conceptual projects such as Archizoom's No-Stop-City explored the possibilities of simply enclosing space from the elements to create a flexible interior space. This style of space is of course common for retail and office space but until now has been uncommon in residential design. This typology spans both the idea of communal flexible living, as with No-Stop-City, and separate dwellings. The work of Lacaton & Vassal show elements of the half-build principle in projects such as House in Coutras and Palais de Tokyo where spaces appear to be unfinished. In these projects Lacaton & Vassal enclose large spaces as cheaply as possible and then allow the occupants to inhabit and 'design' the space to suit themselves. Half-build projects have partly become more common due to economic crisis where financing has fallen through, forcing projects to be sold before completion, a rather more unplanned version of the typology.

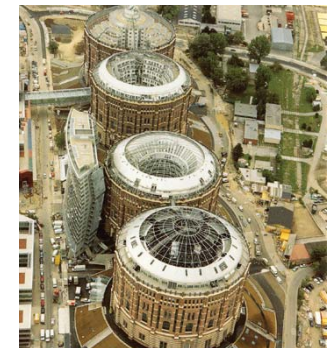
Architects have been dreaming up mega-mixed-use projects for many years, like Frank Lloyd Wright and his mile-high tower the Illinois, but only now are they becoming a popular development option. Mixed-use buildings, on a smaller scale, are now quite a common typologies in urban areas, where housing, retail, offices, supermarkets, entertainment and parking are all being rolled into the same complex of buildings. These mixed-use buildings can include different typologies of housing within them, such as the apartments and townhouses on the roof of a shopping complex in the Harbour Town development in Melbourne's Docklands. However, high-rise mini-cities are coming more and more plausible, as the continuing development and investigation of the Sky City 1000 project in Japan proves. In Tokyo where land-prices are extreme the building cost for large and complex high-rise buildings generally is only costs 10% of the budget, the futuristic project is being considered a serious option to overcome the city's overcrowding. A single tower of the project would consist of over 35,000 dwellings and include places of employment, entertainment, recreation and amenity, a potentially self-sustaining community. In fact some versions of the project include 3 towers with an Olympic Stadium suspended in between. Housing is even beginning to be mixed with energy generation, not just the simple solar-energy collecting house, but entire mini-cities that collect, solar, wind, thermal, oil and even wave energy in proposals such as 'Mega Energy Archipelago'.

Reuse is becoming a housing typology in itself, where more and more people are appropriating spaces and places that weren't intended for residential living. This phenomena also includes the simple and popular act of renovating a pre-existing house to enlarge or improve, sometimes even splitting a large single dwelling into multiple units. Selling-off backyards or any other 'excess' space for small scale developments is also very common in inner-city areas. However, practice of converting industrial spaces is a newer concept, with even large mixed-use projects such as the Gasometer in Vienna. The Gasometer project was completed in 2001 from four decommissioned gas containers originally constructed in 1896. The complex of buildings now includes offices, shops, cinemas and apartments. The project has formed a hub from which the rest of the surrounding area has continued to grow. Newer still, is the idea of reusing abandoned infrastructure and structures such as bridges and shipping containers. Inhabitable bridges aren't a new idea, they are as old as the 'old London bridge', but to reuse a structure, as proposed in 'The Bay Line' is a new concept. The Bay Line proposes the reuse of the old Bay Bridge in San Francisco. The proposal includes various amenities, public spaces, even agriculture as well as housing, slung off and in between the bridge's original structural beams.

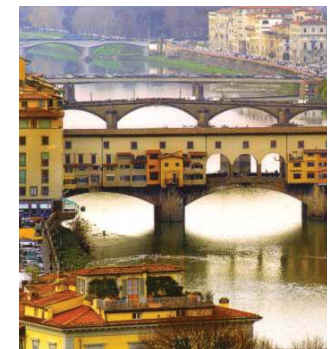
Australia has come from a history of adopting and adapting housing typologies from other places, resulting in positive and negative effects. Perhaps it is now time not just to look to others for examples but to our own future to create our own mix of typologies to suit our diverse and changing lifestyle. Much of our housing has been created out of short-term gains, affordability and the pursuit of the 'Australian Dream' ideal, this type of housing has proved itself unsustainable. Our wide open spaces are filling up with more and more houses and people who are perhaps unintentionally marooning themselves from services, infrastructure, amenity and society. If we are to support a continuing growth of people and society we must consider the way we house and give people greater options to really choose how to live themselves.



Above
The Bay Line, massing model,
San Francisco, USA, *Rael San
Fratello Architects.*



Top Right
Gasometer, Aerial, Vienna,
Austria, *Jean Nouvel, Coop
Himmelblau, Manfred
Wehdorn, Wilhelm Holzbauer*



Bottom Right
Old London Bridge.

SPACIAL DEVISION

THE [re]LINKING OF INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

"Outside and inside form a dialectic of division, the obvious geometry of which blinds us as soon as we bring it into play in metaphorical domains. It has the sharpness of the dialectics of 'yes' and 'no', which decides everything. Unless one is careful, it is made into a basis of images that govern all thoughts of positive and negative".

Gaston Bachelard- The Poetics of Space

The concept of interior being opposed to exterior in terms of house design creates a housing typology which separates two fundamentally linked spaces. Walls and a roof become barriers put into place in order to protect us from the elements. Static elements which, once built remain unchanged for the life of a structure. A door becomes a closable structural element, designed to allow passage to this interior sanctuary, and, once the user is inside, seals off the interior from the exterior. Windows become portals into the outside environment, elements implemented to create a link to this 'exterior' in order for us to feel connected despite a very concrete disconnection from a foreign environment.

With the creation of this static structure designed to provide comfortable living and protect us from the elements, we create a precise division between interior and exterior; even with the capabilities of opening doors and windows, we negate the exterior environment and create an opposition between the two. The outside world is one which we are alienated from, an environment which we must be protected from; we create an interior environment which operates independently of its exterior context, we lose the capability to take advantage of exterior elements which could perform the tasks that we invent devices to do artificially in order to create a microclimate of comfort in the interior.

A Typical House

And its microclimate

A typical housing structure creates a sort of binary opposition between spaces, and with this opposition, we begin to think in binary terms. How to cool an interior space? This area is sealed off from its exterior environment, so we must create a device which injects cool air into this space; the interior of the house is considered solely in terms of its spacial volume.

How to heat this space? The walls and roof are designed to keep the sun's heat out all year round, so we need heating systems that make the interior comfortable during Winter. In keeping the sun's heat out, we also keep a large amount of light out, so interior artificial lighting is used, and in some areas of the house, it is necessary during the day. The same level of light is used regardless of purpose, when a higher level of lighting is only typically necessary when reading or working.

In order to progress spatial design, and therefore, architectural design, the thinking of the architect needs to move beyond this basic configuration; the manner in which a house, and housing typology is designed needs to be re-thought.

Image 01: Typical housing configuration diagram

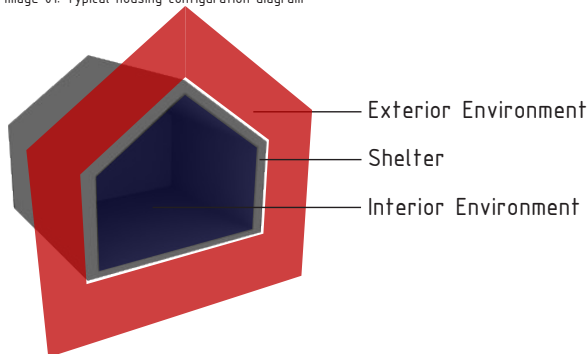
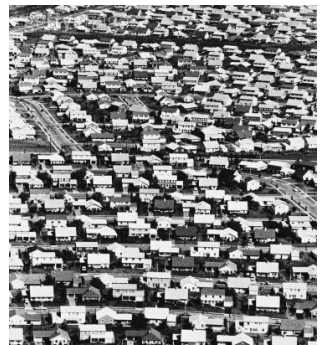


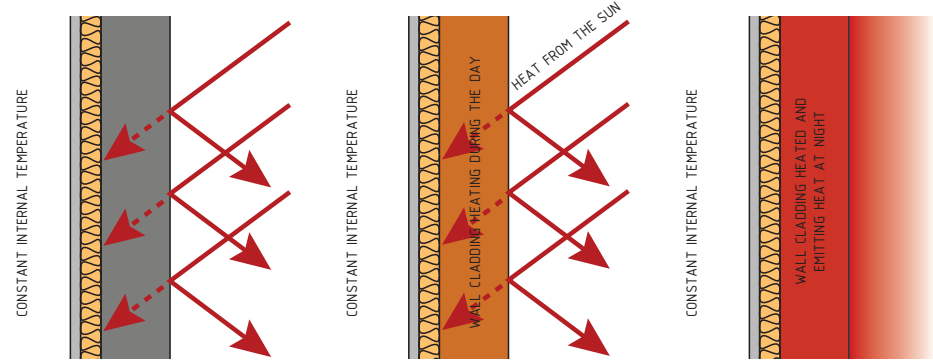
Image 02: Typical housing development configuration



Walls & Insulation

And the heat island effect

The walls of a house work with insulation to stop a transfer of heat through the structure into the interior space, the outer cladding, usually brick or concrete, reflects the sun's rays, however, it also absorbs a large amount of the heat, and stores it. when the external environment cools down later at night, the exterior cladding of the wall transfers that same heat back into the air surrounding the house. This becomes a problem when trying to passively ventilate a house because the space surrounding the structure is heated and unless there is a strong breeze, it will remain heated.



This configuration of interior cladding, insulation, and exterior cladding produces a heated microclimate on certain sides of the house, reducing the capability for passive ventilation. Thermal insulation stops conduction , convection and radiative effects:

- by creating a thermal barreer against conduction
- by suppressing air movements
- by limiting radiative effects

This type of configuration also works in the same manner in the colder months of the year, stopping heat from being transferred into the interior spaces of the building, reducing the capability for passive heating.

EXTERIOR PREVENTS SUN FROM HEATING INTERIOR SPACE.
-POSITIVE IN SUMMER MONTHS

EXTERIOR PREVENTS SUN FROM HEATING INTERIOR SPACE.
-NEGATIVE IN WINTER MONTHS



Principles of Energy Usage

And their effect on an interior

Energy in the form of electricity is used in a number of ways within the typical house, whether it is a television, computer, air conditioner, or lightbulb, they all use electricity and transform it in order to create a useful outcome. Some items do this in an efficient manner, others use a large amount of electricity to perform a simple task, with the energy loss being transformed into heat.

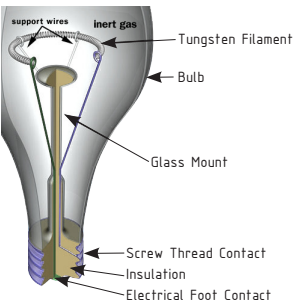
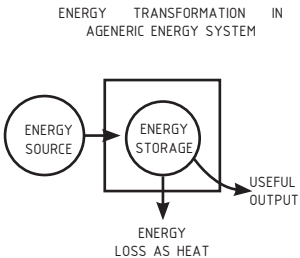


Image 01: Diagram of energy transformation from a source to an output.

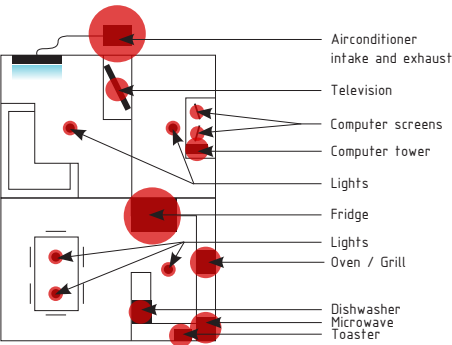
Image 02: Diagram of a light bulb and its components. Energy moves through the circuit, and by means of the tungsten filament, is transformed into light, and heat.



$$\text{ENERGY EFFICIENCY} = \frac{\text{USEFUL OUTPUT}}{\text{TOTAL OUTPUT FROM SOURCE}} \times 100$$

If we examine the diagrammatic plan of a typical kitchen and lounge room configuration, we can see the appliances within this configuration which produce an amount of heat which is then transferred into the space, this heat could be negligible, or it could change the overall temperature of the room.

If both of these configurations are examined simultaneously, exterior cladding, and interior elements, they show that the exterior of a house is being heated, and the interior space is also being heated and the appliances within this space are using electricity and producing carbon emissions.



On a Molecular level

Heating and Cooling of a Medium

There are three modes of heat transmission:

- conduction through solid material or gas :the more insulant the material, the less the conduction
- convection : the heat "travels" due to air movement, because of temperature and density gradient. Hot air moves up and heat dissipates. The quieter the air , the less the convection
- radiation : each material absorbs or emits thermal radiations depending on its temperature and its emissivity.

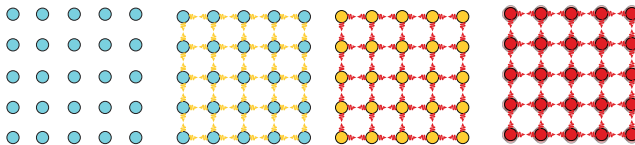


Image 04: Diagram of heat transfer between molecules by convection

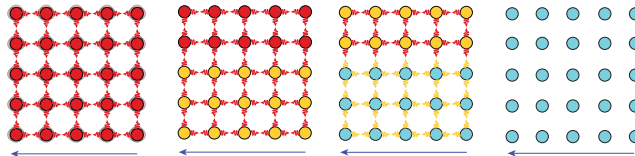


Image 05: Diagram of heat dissipation between molecules by air flow

Air cooling by natural ventilation operates not by the air being cooled, but by the heated air being dissipated. Air moving through a room both flushes heated air out through an outlet, and provides cool molecules for heat to be transferred into, and therefore dissipated. This same process is used in air conditioning, however, the source of the cooler air is the airconditioner unit, which runs on electricity.

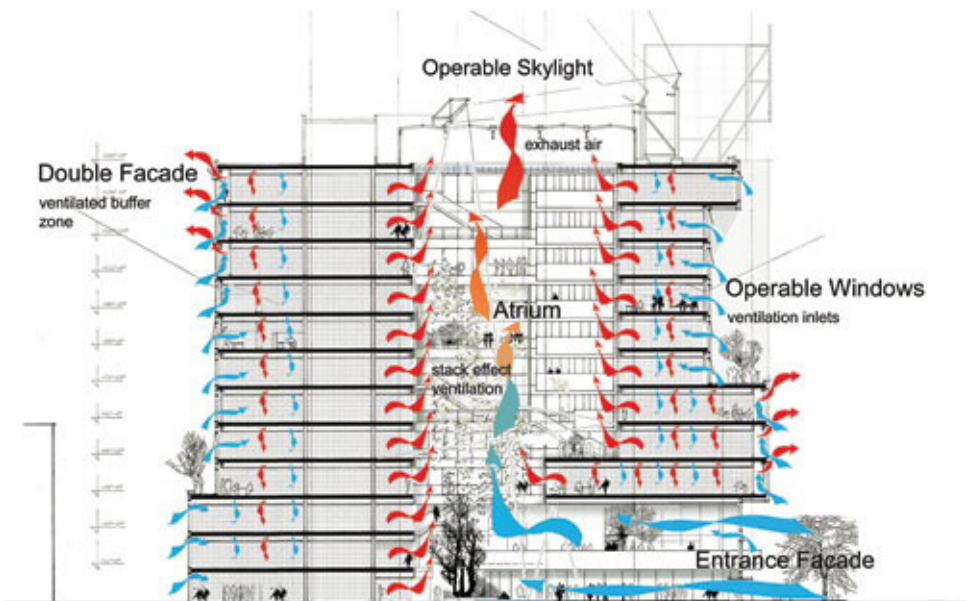


Passive ventilation

Cooling by heat dissipation.

The interior space within a building can be considered solely in terms of a singular space, surrounded by void and entirely independent of all exterior context; however, this is the type of design and consideration which has led to the use of air conditioning, heating, and lighting, which runs for a large amount of hours during a day, using electricity, and producing carbon emissions. In order to more carefully construct a spacial design which does not have the resultant effect of a large carbon output, the architect is required to take into account a large number of variables in the exterior, which are intricately related, through materiality and movement, to the interior of the building.

These exterior variables can include- climate, environment, context, reflection of light, absorption of light, orientation in relation to the sun, and orientation in relation to the wind. With these elements in mind the challenge then becomes more specific, how to interact with these elements in a manner which incorporates them, and benefits the building design, rather than operating independently of them. The question for an architect seems more to be one of how to profit from the relationships that a building has with its exteriority, rather than merely dealing with them.



Low Tech

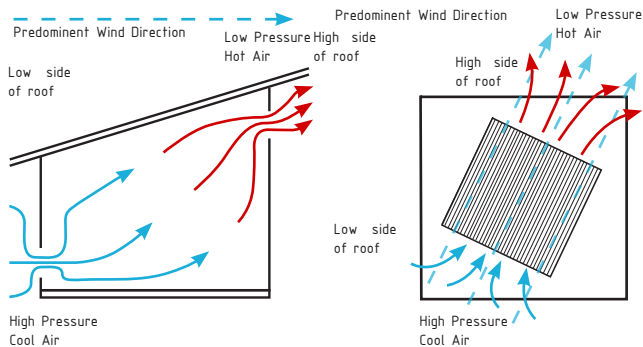
Expense vs. consideration

Technologically advanced materials can be quite expensive and when thinking in terms of affordable housing, can simply be beyond the budget. If the latest, advanced materials and systems are not available within a project, clever simple design needs to take the place of expensive advanced technologies. The various areas of a house, and the materials used need to be designed in relation to their very specific purpose, designed with the same rigor, and considered as carefully as the formal aesthetic of the building. If an existing material will not serve adequately for a wall, a new material should be developed; every detail of a building should be designed with as much consideration as the overall concept for the structure.

The light and shadow of an interior space, the way air moves through a volume, these are created by the form, both solid and void spaces. The choice of material, colour, finish, transparency, and reflection contribute to the type of space which is created and when carefully considered can create an environment which can be naturally regulated in terms of temperature and light; they can create a space which operates beyond the typical characteristics of an interior volume.

When considering the passive ventilation of a space, the technology which is used does not always have to be the most advanced or expensive. The overall configuration of the internal spaces, in relation to their external environment can contribute largely to the structures ability to allow air to flow through it when needed.

The interior volume can be designed, and orientated in relation to prevailing winds, and the need to allow hot air to move out. and cool air to move in.



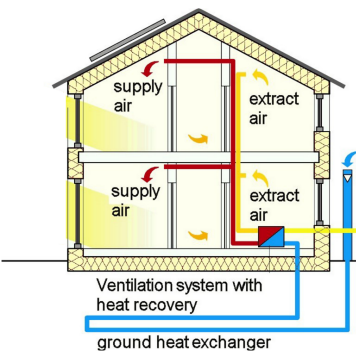
Ground-Coupled Heat Exchanger

or Earth Tubes

"[The] Earth-Tube Heat Exchanger (ETHE) is a device that enables transfer of heat from ambient air to deeper layers of soil and vice versa. Since the early exploration of its use in cooling commercial livestock buildings (1965) there has been considerable increase in its application. ETHE is used to condition the air in livestock buildings. It is also used in North America and Europe to cool and heat greenhouses".

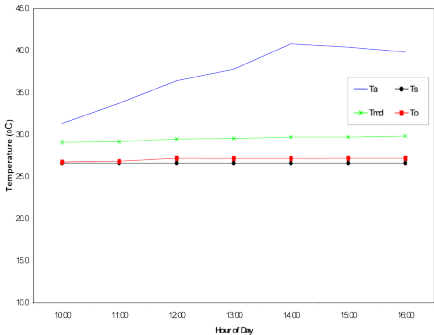
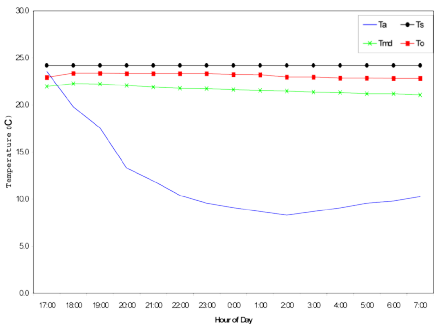
- A Ground coupled heat exchanged consists of:
- 50 m long 10 cm diameter pipe with wall thickness of 3 mm
- A 1 m wide, 3 m deep and 50 m long trench
- Inlet and outlet of the ETHE which rise 0.5 m above ground
- Inlet is connected to the delivery end of the blower
- Outlet is open to atmosphere
- A 90degree elbow at the intake prevents the entry of rain water

The air velocity moving through the ETHE is 11 m/s



| Table 3 : Summary of Cooling Test Results | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Month | Ambient Temperature At 14 hours (°C) | Basic Soil Temperature T _s (°C) | Outlet Temperature At 14 hours (°C) |
| January | Heating test | | |
| February | 37.9 | 25.2 | 26.4 |
| March | 39.4 | 25.8 | 26.4 |
| April | 41.4 | 26.6 | 28.0 |
| May | 40.8 | 26.6 | 27.2 |
| June | 37.5 | 29.8 | 31.9 |
| July | No test due to rain | - | - |
| August | No test due to rain | - | - |
| September | 39.1 | 28.9 | 30.0 |
| October | 34.8 | 25.6 | 26.2 |
| November | 30.6 | 24.2 | 24.2 |
| December | 30.7 | 24.4 | 24.4 |

Values are mean of three consecutive days of test in each month.



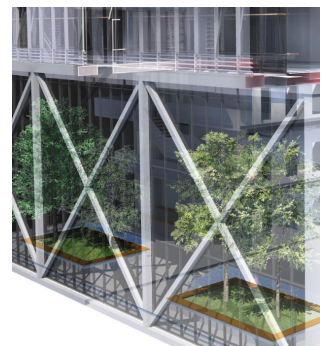
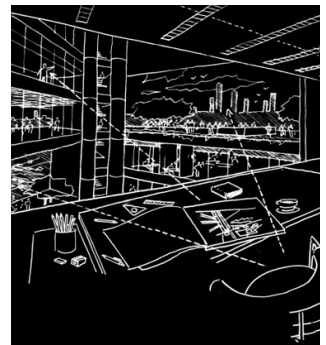
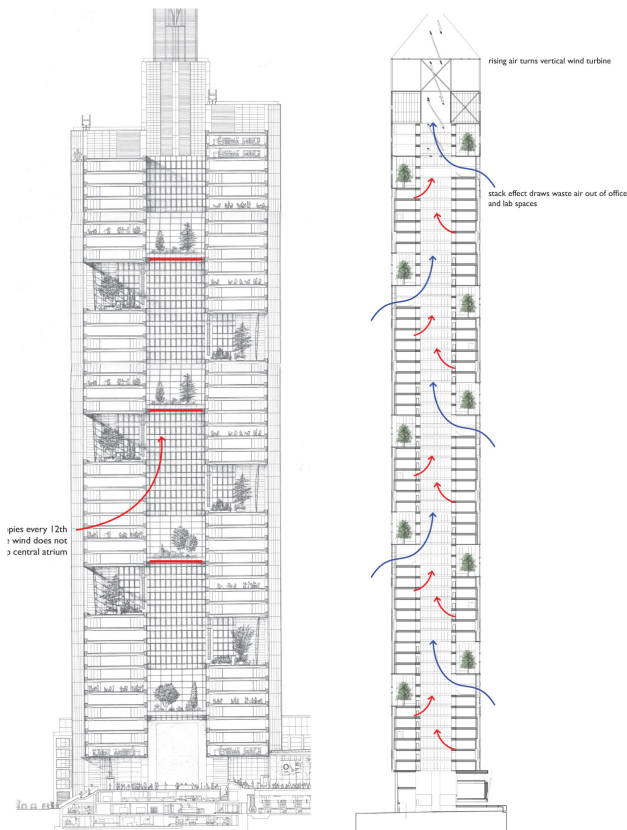
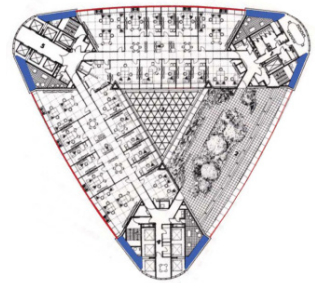
Interior gardens

Improve air quality_Landscape is cheap

"Sky gardens that spiral around the building bring daylight and fresh air into the central atrium and are the visual and social focus for village-like clusters of offices."

Foster & Partners

Interior planting has the ability to clean air in order to improve the overall air quality of a space, however, they also need a large amount of light in order to survive, and larger plants such as trees typically aren't suited to interior spaces.



Lighting a space

Direct / Diffuse / Levels

The manner in which light enters a space can transform it, highlighting aspects of form and material; the creative use of natural light can move beyond aesthetics and allow a building to use less electricity and have a lower carbon output.

Where artificial lighting is necessary, which should mainly be at night, the level to which a space is lit should depend on the activity taking place within it. Typically lighting levels are not adjusted depending on what is taking place, and an element as simple as a dimmer switch could decrease the amount of electricity being used.

LUX Levels for tasks:

Public area: 30Lux

Simple orientation: 75Lux

Dwelling/Visual tasks: 150Lux

Typical visual tasks: 300Lux

Visually demanding tasks: 750Lux

Highly visually demanding tasks: 1500Lux

Typical visual tasks- longer period of time: 3000Lux

Highly visually demanding tasks- longer period of time: 7500Lux

Very highly visually demanding tasks- longer period of time: 15000Lux



- Use fluorescent lamps for interior lighting
- Arrange fixtures to suit furniture arrangements
- Limit decorative lighting
- Control exterior lighting
- Use separate work station switching
- Maximizing Use of Daylighting
- Reducing Illumination Levels

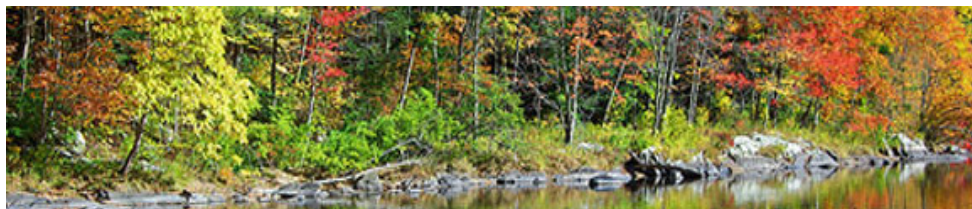
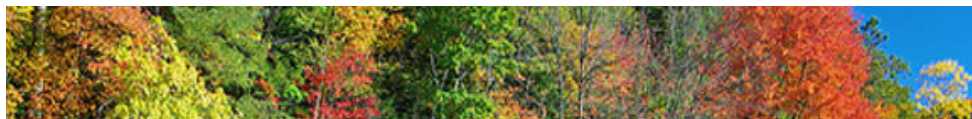
A maximum lighting ratio of 5:1 is recommended when passing from one area to another for adaptation and psychological reasons.



What makes a neighbourhood vibrant?

Over the past 15 years Bank of I.D.E.A.S. has worked with over 1000 rural communities throughout Australia and overseas to create the 20 clues to creating and maintaining a vibrant community. Through this extensive work they have come to the realisation that community residents act responsibly when they care and support what they create. If the residents were to help with the town planning, designing and building processes in any way, it could thoroughly increase the chances of a vibrant community spirit. This does not need to mean that they have free reign in building a house, but by helping out in the process they feel connected with the town that they will live in, as opposed to being separate entities to their surroundings.

- Sense of Community
- Natural Environment
- Transportation
- Education and Learning
- Diversity
- Sports and Recreation
- Local Economy
- Arts
- Built Environment
- Health and Wellness
- Housing
- Safety
- Sense of Belonging
- Active Lifestyles
- Regular Events
- Community Gardens
- Paths and Trails to promote walking



- Meaningful and lasting community change always originates from within, and local residents in that community are the best experts on how to activate that change.
- Building and nourishing relationships is at the core of building healthy and inclusive communities.
- Communities have never been built by dwelling on their deficiencies, needs and problems. Communities respond creatively when the focus is on resources, capacities, strengths and aspirations.
- The strength of a community is directly proportional to the level that the diversity of its residents desire, and are able to contribute their abilities and assets to the well being of their community.
- Every single person has capacities, abilities, gifts and ideas, and living a good life depends on whether those capacities can be used, abilities expressed, gifts given and ideas shared.
- In every community something works. Instead of asking 'What's wrong, and how to fix it', ask- 'What's worked, and how do we get more of it?' It generates energy and creativity.
- Creating positive change begins simply with conversation. It is the way that human beings have always thought together, and initiated action.
- Hope and passion, visionary leadership, social connectedness, altruism, generosity, collaboration, pride and forgiveness are the most important qualities of community life.



Community Garden



Above
The allotment garden, in which gardeners have their own garden plot. In some instances the work maintaining the gardens falls under the entire community, yet the food is for the specific household



Above
The communal garden, where gardeners have responsibility for the entire garden, bringing people together in hard work and learning

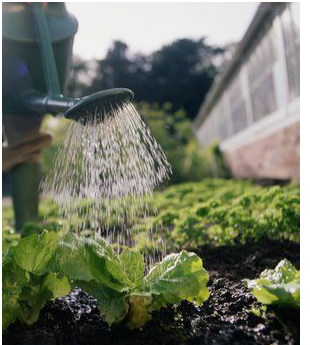
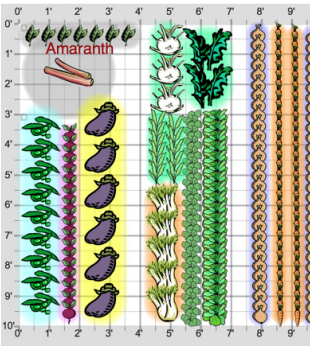


Top
A possible community garden design, where there isn't just growing plots for fruit and vegies but also a sensory garden, walking trails and a welcoming space where people can congregate and have a break from work

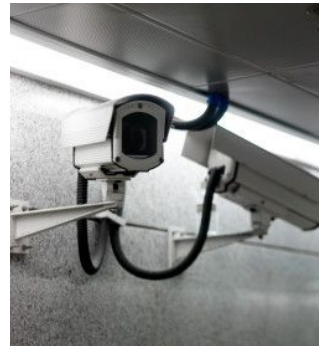
Community Gardens are a great way to grow fresh food and a sense of community. Not only do they enable urban development, good health and learning, it also provides various social benefits which enrich the lives of those living within the community. Despite an initial post-war decline, growing public awareness of environmental issues coupled with an escalation of high-density housing in Western cities re-fuelled the demand for community gardens. Over the last three decades, many neglected vacant lots in the modern urban environment have been transformed into thriving gardens. For example, a 1996 survey reported that over 6,000 community gardens are operating in the United States (Hunt, 2002; Schukoske, 2000).

The number of community gardens in Australia is increasing. What started as isolated examples of urban food production in the late 1970's has blossomed into a movement promoting healthy lifestyles, nutritional growth and the sharing and eating of locally grown food.

"The purpose is really so that people can come together in the community, meet like minded people and grow their own vegies, cutting out all the pesticides and also cutting out the transport miles so that you can eat locally," says horticulturalist Megan Cooke.



S a f e t y



Neighbourhood watch;

Bill Gillies, a warehouseman from Edinburgh set up a neighbourhood watch program in his town from 2000–2010. In that time he has noticed drastic changes local safety, awareness and community spirit. An unexpected benefit of the Neighbourhood Watch was that neighbours felt far more able to talk to each other and new friendships were formed. "Some people began visiting elderly residents and even set up a team to pay visits and to help out with shopping, driving and small jobs around the house." (Bill Gillies, 09) Another benefit for residents with children was that they felt more able to let their children play outdoors.

"Our next target is to get more landscaping for the streets to show a sense of civic pride. We are also in talks about setting up an evening club for teenagers in the local school as a lot of the destruction came about because they were bored and had nothing else to do." (Bill Gillies, 09)

A Checklist For Starting a Neighbourhood Watch Program

You Will Need

- A person or group of people committed to starting a Neighbourhood Watch.
- A planning committee to initiate the program.
- A list of what issues initially need to be addressed in your community.
- A means of communicating with the residents, e-mail, fliers, telephone trees.
- Publicity for the initial Neighbourhood Watch meeting.
- A meeting agenda to keep things moving and on track.
- A place to meet-resident's house or apartment, community centre, school, library.
- A crime prevention officer to discuss the crime issues in the neighbourhood and to help train members.
- A map of the community with spaces for names, addresses, and phone numbers of all households.
- A sign-up sheet for those interested in becoming block or building captains.
- Brochures or other materials on topics of interest to the residents.
- Neighbourhood Watch signs to be posted around the community. Some jurisdictions require a minimum number of participants before Neighbourhood Watch signs can be posted.
- Facts about crime in your neighbourhood. (These can be found in police reports, newspapers, and residents' Perception about crime. Often residents' opinions are not supported by facts, and accurate information can reduce fear of crime.)

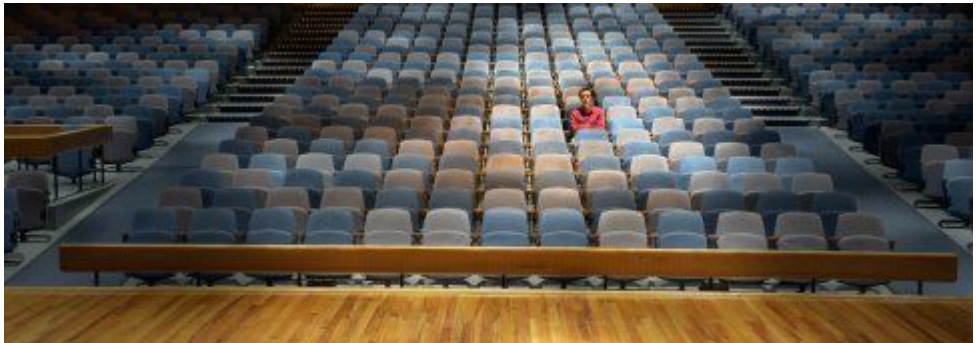
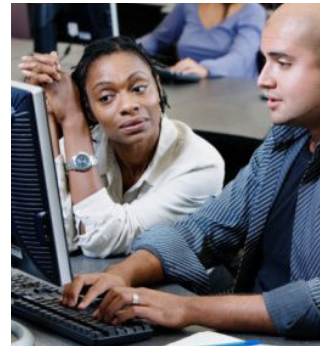


Learning Communities

Principles and Goals:

1. Life-long learning communities are diverse, open places where individuals develop meaningful ways to enhance, enrich, honor and celebrate each other, families, communities and society, acting as a significant element in an emerging cooperative commonwealth.
2. The Coalition promotes ideas and actions for creating learning communities.
3. The Coalition expands and advances the relevance of learning to societal change.
4. The Coalition explores, develops, disseminates and implements new concepts for organizational systems that result in the equitable sharing of power and wealth, well-being and self-sustaining conviviality of the Earth and all its life forms.
5. The Coalition demonstrates that the Internet is a powerful tool for organizing actions, learning creative concepts and engaging constructive discussion.

"It is useful to think of a learning community as a type of organizational innovation" (Daft 1982, Damanpour, 1991)





The department of planning and community development has several keys to building community spirit and involvement:

- Promoting participation from all sections of the community
- using a community development approach to ensure all sections of the community are able to engage in land use and urban planning processes
- Providing good regional and local governance that give communities the opportunity to decide their priorities and act on them
- Encouraging investment in community development through funding programs and partnerships with government, private, philanthropic and local resources
- Aiming for sustainability so that communities continue to grow and improve.



There is also a need for promoting transportation options ie. walking and cycling. Creating various walking paths and tracks the community is able to keep fit and healthy whilst seeing more of the area they live in, wether it be sights and sounds or just the people around them

- Bike paths
- Public (Trains/Trams)
- Walking
- Playgrounds
- Parks
- Trails
- Gardens

By enabling walking as the primary mode of transport in the community people are not subjected to bubbles of isolation; the office, the shopping center, the car, the home. They are able to step outside, greet their neighbours and enjoy the community they helped create.



In an urban perspective, neighborhood revitalization is about reconnecting the poverty enclave to the larger city networks. First, in a physical sense, by restoring access, the public character of the public domain, and the multi-functionality of its locations. Second, by improving the opportunity structure of the poor trapped in those enclaves: by opening up the job market, and by offering programs of marketable skills acquisition and access to good housing.



In building and maintaining a vibrant community it is important to remember that by creating situations for people to get involved with various events and projects throughout the year whether it be a shared garden, farmers market etc. opportunities for social interaction, town pride and a sense of belonging bring the community together through their own common goals and interests